

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Matthew Fontaine Maury School
other names/site number: Maury Elementary School (1952-1980). Fredericksburg High School (1920-1937).
James Monroe High School and James Monroe Elementary School (1937-1952); #111-0009-0014

2. Location

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|------|------------|-----|--------------|
| street & number | <u>900 Barton Street</u> | Not for Publication | | <u>N/A</u> | | | | | |
| city or town | <u>City of Fredericksburg</u> | Vicinity | | <u>N/A</u> | | | | | |
| state | <u>Virginia</u> | code | <u>VA</u> | county | <u>Independent City</u> | code | <u>630</u> | Zip | <u>22401</u> |

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private (Is the property still owned by the city?)
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|---------------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u>3</u> buildings |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> sites |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> objects |
| <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.): N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)Cat: EDUCATIONSub: SchoolCat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Sports Facility (playing field and stadium)**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)Cat: VACANTSub: Not in useCat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Sports Facility (playing field and stadium)

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVAL: Colonial Revival**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)Foundation: CONCRETERoof: COMPOSITIONWalls: BRICKOther: WOOD**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION, ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION, ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance: 1920-1952

Significant Dates: 1920, 1930, and 1937

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Philip Nathaniel Stern (1878-1960)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☒ Other State agency (Library of Virginia)
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: Library of Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 7.38 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

USGS Fredericksburg Quad

UTM 18 284456E 4242044N

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Bryan Clark Green and Mary Harding Sadler

Organization: Commonwealth Architects and Sadler & Whitehead Architects date: 1 June 2006

street & number: 101 Shockoe Slip, 3rd Floor telephone: 804.648.5040 x135 and 804-231-5299

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23219

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: Mr. Edwin Gaskin (as authorized agent for the City of Fredericksburg)

street & number: Echelon Resources, Inc., 9895 Ridgefield Parkway telephone: (804) 641-0655

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23233

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Maury School
City of Fredericksburg, Virginia

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The primary resources of the historic property known as Maury School are the L-shaped three-story brick building and the adjacent 1935 stadium whose concrete bleachers are centered on the school's main entry. The school and stadium are diagonally sited on a 7.38-acre lot that is delineated by the angled urban streets at its edge, by a row of mature evergreen and oak trees, and by a recently erected metal fence. The Colonial Revival-style school building is comprised of three matching blocks that together enclose 65,000 square feet of space. The original building opened in 1920 as Fredericksburg High School to serve 7th through 12th grade white students. An auditorium and gymnasium addition in the same style was centered on the north elevation in 1930. An elementary school building constructed in 1937 echoes the original building's footprint, massing, and details, and is linked to the west end of the high school by an arcaded hyphen. The whole is a carefully unified composition; a classic example of an early-twentieth century public school. The design was originated by well-known Fredericksburg architect Philip Nathaniel Stern (1878-1960), who was also architect for many of the buildings at what is now the University of Mary Washington, as well as commercial buildings, a hospital and private homes in the city. Historian and writer Jack D. Warren, Jr. calls Maury School "the best example of institutional Colonial Revival architecture in Fredericksburg."¹

The property has one contributing school building and one contributing stadium structure. There are also three small non-contributing buildings --a press box, ticket booth, equipment building—located within the nominated parcel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The building walls are constructed in terra cotta block with a facing of dark red brick laid in Flemish bond. A wide entablature topped with a molded wood cornice wraps the entire building. The stuccoed concrete foundation, another unifying element, defines the raised basement. White cast stone corner blocks provide simple ornamentation to the massive walls. The continuous parapet is stepped and ramped above the long north and south elevations. The building's two three-story masses are linked by a two-story hyphen with an open arcade on the ground floor and an enclosed passage on the second floor.

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The south face of the building, which fronts on the stadium, is the school's most imposing elevation. On this façade, the original high school building is distinguished by its one-story portico. The later elementary school addition has the same masonry details and similar groupings of windows. In each wing a wide center block with banded windows is flanked by pavilions with stepped parapets. The south and north walls of these pavilions feature a two-story panel of diapered brickwork with a frame of header and soldier courses.

Though built in two different periods, the east (1920) and west (1937) ends of the building are almost identical; each is defined by its narrow projecting center bay and a one-story Doric portico. The east end, which opens onto the corner of Barton and George Streets, was a primary entry by virtue of its proximity to the street, while the south entry, a carefully articulated Doric portico with columns *in muris*, was the school's ceremonial entry.

All the original wood-paneled and glass exterior doors and transoms remain, as do all of the original windows. Most of the windows are wood double-hung, nine-over-nine sash. The windows in the cafeteria are industrial-style steel pivot-and-hopper sash divided into multiple lights. The sizes of the windows are graduated, with smaller openings in the basement and the large windows arranged in broad bands between the masonry piers that define the building's corners. The forty-five-foot height of the building does not vary throughout its principal mass. In keeping with traditional design, the two principal stories rest on an elevated cast-concrete basement.

Interior

The floor plan is shaped like an L. The horizontal leg of the L is defined on each floor by a double-loaded corridor interrupted by stairs at each end and in the middle. This corridor opens into classrooms and offices. The vertical leg leads from the south entry to the gymnasium and auditorium via paired monumental stairs. The symmetrical plan is formally ordered. The interior walls are masonry. No frame partitions remain.

The corridors are characterized by a continuous wainscoting of yellow glazed brick (in the 1920 and 1930 sections) or tile (in the 1937 section). Original flooring, a mix of maple and pine floors in most classrooms, terrazzo in the stairs leading to the gymnasium and auditorium, and quarry tile in the kitchen and bathroom areas, remains throughout the building, as do windows, exterior doors, and associated casing. This combination of yellow glazed brick and tile, pine and maple floors, and large windowed spaces imparts a

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**Maury School
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sense of quality, permanence, and warmth throughout the corridors, classrooms, and assembly spaces. The original, twelve-foot-high walls and ceilings were plaster; all except for the auditorium and gymnasium ceilings have been removed because of the asbestos content.

The most highly articulated spaces are at the main entry vestibule, the gymnasium, and the auditorium. Maury's main entry has a pair of glazed wood entry doors flanked by single doors and topped with a pediment and multi-light transoms. The entry lobby is generous, with wide slate stairs leading up to the gymnasium and auditorium stacked at the center of the building. From the first-floor hall one enters the stepped spectator area overlooking the airy gymnasium, whose maple floors, glazed brick walls, and concrete ceiling and light fixtures have been preserved intact. The auditorium above the gym also remains in a virtually unaltered state with rows of wood seats mounted in a maple floor. Even the original pendant light fixtures remain in place. The stage with its curved front has also been preserved. As is the case throughout the building, the plaster has been removed from the walls, leaving the structural brick and block exposed. Although the back of the theater had been enclosed to create a planetarium, the original stepped balcony area remains intact beneath the later framing.

Classrooms and offices flank the central corridor in each of the building's main blocks. At the top of the stairs in the original building, the original principal's and assistant principal's offices remain in place. The school library was a large room centered over the main entry and overlooking the stadium. The cafeteria and vocational education spaces were at the lower level of the west wing where tiled wainscoting, even on the columns, remains in place.

In summary, the interior has a high level of integrity, largely because the school has been underutilized or abandoned for more than 25 years. Interior plaster and doors were removed by the city in order to address lead and asbestos contamination. Where elements were not contaminated by hazardous material, they were left in place. Virtually all of the features that remain have been unchanged since 1937.

Site

A handsome institutional structure set in a mixed urban area, Maury School is bordered on the north by an early African-American neighborhood known as Liberty Town, on the east by a mix of commercial and residential properties, and on the south by Kenmore Avenue and Hanover Street. A narrow alley separates the property from the larger

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historic buildings on William Street. The school and its stadium clearly exist in a separate precinct, defined by fences and mature trees. Its site was chosen in 1919 because it was centrally located, because it had a large open area, and because it was an inexpensive piece of land.² The site had been previously used as a potter's field and an African-American cemetery. Before the school was built, the graves were moved to Shiloh Cemetery at the corner of Littlepage Street and Monument Avenue.

The most significant of the exterior spaces is the 1935 stadium that parallels the school building's long east-west axis. Stepped cast-concrete bleachers were built into the grassy slope between the school and the athletic field. A brick balustrade with a wide concrete cap forms the edge of this gracious gathering place. This is not only used for local high school football games, but also for musical concerts and other community functions. Maury Stadium is in effect "the City Stadium". As noted in the September 1996 study of the property sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, "The value of the green space can not be determined in a dollar figure as this is seen by many as a gateway to the beautiful historic downtown and as 'sacred ground' by the community."³ Other site features include a flagpole dedicated to the school's alumni who served in World War II, and cast concrete benches donated by different graduating classes.

Despite the building's 25-year vacancy, the Maury School property is a place steeped in local pride and tradition. A stack of reports and newspaper articles dating from 1919 to the present evidence the passionate local interest aroused by the Maury School building and its stadium.

Three non-contributing resources are located within the historic property boundaries--a press box, equipment shed, and a ticket booth, all probably built in the 1980s. The first resource is a concrete block press box erected at the top of the stadium, nearest to the school; the second resource is a small, one-story, concrete block equipment shed, rectangular in plan, and located near the east edge of the property (Hanover Street); and the third resource is a small, frame, ticket booth located near the Hanover Street entry gate and is square in plan, clad in T-111 siding, and covered with a composition roof.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Maury School is eligible for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, with areas of significance in Education and Entertainment/ Recreation, and Criterion C in architectural significance. The period of significance extends from the school's construction in 1920 to the final name change in 1952, when the resource went from a high school to a middle school facility. Prominently sited next to the downtown in the City of Fredericksburg, the building served the city as a public school until 1980. Maury Stadium continues to serve the community for outdoor events and high school football games.

The Maury School meets the requirements for individual listing under Criterion A because it was the City of Fredericksburg's first purpose-built public high school, and it continued to serve as a public school for sixty years. The school was built within the bounds of Liberty Town, an African-American settlement created in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. The Maury School occupied a central place in the community life of Fredericksburg. In addition to the education functions of the school, the stadium was the largest public gathering place in Fredericksburg, and served many community functions. In addition to sporting events, the stadium was home to Fredericksburg's Dog Mart, an annual dog show that drew as many as 15,000 people to the school, and was rooted in a trading agreement between the settlement that became Fredericksburg and the Pamunkey tribe of King William County. The Pamunkey were key participants in this annual fair in the 20th century, with the occasion serving as an important market for pottery made at the King William reservation. The Maury School also meets the requirements for listing under Criterion C as a classic example of early-twentieth-century public school architecture, with high quality craftsmanship and design. The school also represents the work of a significant architect, Phillip Nathaniel Stern, who designed many other prominent Fredericksburg buildings. On the exterior, the structure retains a high degree of integrity, including height, mass, materials, roof form, and significant original details such as the distinctive entrance porticos, the cast-concrete sills and corner blocks, Flemish-bond and diapered brickwork, wood cornice, and banked windows. The stadium and football field are on axis with the main entry. On the interior, the structure retains integrity of design, location and configuration of circulation, floor-to-ceiling heights, wainscoting along corridors, windows, and the spaces and volumes of corridors, stairs, classrooms, principal's office, library, gymnasium, and auditorium.

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Historical Background

The Maury School was built in three stages on the block bounded by Kenmore Avenue, Hanover Street, Barton Street, and Day Street. The first building was erected in 1920; an auditorium was added to it in 1930. From 1920 to 1952, the original building served as Fredericksburg's public school for grades 7-12. In 1937, the facility was expanded to include the city's elementary school, a separate building (called the James Monroe Elementary School) connected to the original block by an arcaded hyphen. From 1952 through 1980 it served as the city's middle school. The Maury School was closed in 1980. After several years of use by the Police Academy and as a homeless shelter, the building was vacated.

The Maury School was the first purpose-built high school in the City of Fredericksburg.⁴ Built from 1919-1920 and opened in 1920, it was originally called simply the Fredericksburg High School. In 1937 when the adjacent elementary school building was complete, the name was changed to James Monroe High School and James Monroe Elementary School. In 1952 the city constructed a new high school, to which were transferred both the students and the name of James Monroe High School.⁵ In that same year, the former James Monroe High School was renamed the Matthew Fontaine Maury School, and became a middle school. The school's namesake, Matthew Fontaine Maury, known as the "Pathfinder of the Seas," was instrumental in establishing the United States Naval Academy, the United States Naval Observatory, and the United States Weather Bureau. Maury is best known for his studies of ocean currents that resulted in the publication of the first accurate and reliable oceanographic charts. The Maury School remained in service as a middle school until it was closed in 1980.

Philip Nathaniel Stern

The Maury School was designed by Philip Nathaniel Stern (1878-1960).⁶ Stern, a native of Bangor, Maine, was an accomplished practitioner of Colonial Revival-style architecture. Stern studied architecture at the Technical University, Karlsruhe, Germany, earning a master's degree in 1901. By 1909, he was practicing architecture in Fredericksburg, where he was to design most of the buildings that emerged from his practice. Stern's first projects were undertaken at the State Normal School (now the University of Mary Washington) in conjunction with Charles M. Robinson, a figure who dominated the production of academic buildings in Virginia in the early 20th century. In 1909, Charles M. Robinson, Charles K. Bryant, and Philip N. Stern designed three buildings for the State Normal School: a dormitory, Science Hall, and the President's

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House.⁷ (Stern would return to the State Normal School a decade and a half later – this time on his own – to design two dormitories, in 1923 and 1925 (Do you know which ones?.) Stern based his practice in Fredericksburg, and, after 1909, completed all but a pair of commissions in 1927-28 and 1929 as the sole architect. Stern produced numerous Fredericksburg houses, including the J. Conway Chichester residence (1910?), the G. Frank Timberlake residence (1914), and the George Benoit residence (1926). But a larger part of Stern's practice was focused on commercial and academic architecture. In addition to the academic buildings at the State Normal School, Stern designed a school in Bowling Green (1912), and what became known as the Maury School (1919). Additional commercial projects completed by Stern include two additions to the Mary Washington Hospital (1910 and 1916), the Fredericksburg Hotel (1913), the Benjamin T. Pitts Moving Picture Theatre (1915), the People's Bank of Stafford (1921), and the Mary Washington Hospital (1927-28, with Wesley S. Bissell). Stern also designed the Washington Masonic Memorial Temple in Fredericksburg (1910). In 1929, with architect Edward W. Donn, Jr., Stern restored the kitchen at Kenmore. Stern's achievements in architecture and his knowledge of colonial architecture were recognized by his appointment to the Advisory Committee for the Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg in 1931. Further evidence of his accomplishments was acknowledged when he was appointed district officer for the Historic American Building Survey in Virginia, 1933-34.

Community

The neighborhood in which the Maury School is located – Liberty Town – has roots that reach back into the early nineteenth century. Platted in 1812, Liberty Town was an irregular arrangement of thirty-two lots, bounded approximately by present-day William Street (on the north), Hurkamp Park (on the east), an alley between George and Hanover Streets (on the south), and the grounds of Maury School (on the west).⁸ Liberty Town was not incorporated into the Town of Fredericksburg until 1851. Following the Civil War, Liberty Town developed into a primarily African American community, and the neighborhood – though much of historic Liberty Town has been lost – has remained primarily African American through the present day.⁹ Maury School, however, always served Fredericksburg's white community, and the African American children of Liberty Town were educated at the Walker-Grant Elementary and High School.

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The land on which the Maury School is built has long been in the ownership of the City of Fredericksburg. In 1815, soon after the City acquired the Corporation Burying Grounds (now Hurkamp Park), the city also acquired four lots in Liberty Town. These lots – now the site of the Maury School and stadium – were “to be set aside for a burial place.”¹⁰ However, no immediate action was taken. Despite persistent local tradition, it appears that while it was identified as a potter’s field, few burials actually took place here by the mid-19th century. Gray’s New Map of 1878 identifies it as the “Colored Cemetery,” but “Its use as such was short-lived; as early as the 1880s, some bodies were being moved to the new Shiloh Cemetery” at Littlepage and Monument Streets.¹¹ At the beginning of the twentieth century, the field was “filled with weeds.”¹² In 1914, one city official proposed fencing the remaining graves and using the land for a city stable.¹³ In 1915, the city decided to remove some of the remaining bodies. Soon after that, the city elected to locate the new high school on the site, and the remaining graves were moved. Construction of the new school was begun in 1919.

The Maury School occupied a central place in the community life of Fredericksburg. In addition to the education functions of the school, the stadium was the largest public gathering place in Fredericksburg and served many community functions. Maury School and Maury Stadium were the site of many events embraced by the community, including football games, track meets, dances, graduations, and concerts. Few events seem to have been more beloved by the community of Fredericksburg than the annual Fredericksburg Dog Mart. The Dog Mart was an annual event that was marked by parades, ceremonial visits by delegations from the local Pamunkey tribe, and a day-long festival that included the dog shows, dog races, and auction of dogs to members of the local community. The history of the Fredericksburg Dog Mart extends into the 17th century, when an annual mart, or fair, was established for the exchange of goods between the Pamunkey Indians and the settlers of Leaseland, which would in time become Fredericksburg. One of the favored exchanges was the exchange of furs and corn from the Pamunkey, for hunting dogs raised by the settlers.¹⁴ This annual fair continued through the Revolutionary War. The Dog Mart was revived in 1927 and became an annual event – held at the Maury School – until it was suspended during World War II. The revival of the fair always included a delegation from the Pamunkey.¹⁵

After World War II, the Dog Mart was once again revived. On October 14, 1949, its first year back after the war, an estimated 15,000 people gathered at the James Monroe (now Maury) High School stadium to witness the show. Visitors represented some 30 states, Canada, Mexico, and England. The Dog Mart was preceded by a “mile long parade” led by bands from the University of Virginia and the James Monroe High School.¹⁶

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Following the bands was the dog parade. A dog show was part of the event. In addition to such categories as “Best Pet Dog of the Show,” the show included additional categories such as “Ugliest Mongrel Mutt,” “Best Looking Mutt,” and the intriguing “Miscellaneous Class,” suggesting that good breeding was but one path to a blue ribbon. The 1949 Dog Mart featured a delegation of 100 Pamunkey from a reservation in nearby King William County, led by Chief T.D. Cook. The Pamunkey were key participants in this annual fair in the 20th century, with the occasion serving as an important market for pottery made at the King William reservation.

The Fredericksburg Dog Mart, held at the Maury School, was one of the important social events that tied together the community of Fredericksburg. The Dog Mart became nationally known and was the subject of a June, 1951 story in National Geographic and a 25 October 1937 story in Time. The Dog Mart festival continues through the present day, held every October, now at the Izaak Walton League Park, State Route 600, Spotsylvania County.

Public Education in Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg’s first public school opened in 1870 and its first four-year high school opened in 1908. Because private schools were the primary educational institutions, public schools were slow to develop. Initially the city’s under-funded public schools occupied existing homes. The city acquired buildings in which to operate public schools beginning circa 1880. In 1884 the city built the two-story Colored School of Fredericksburg, an elementary school, on the current site of the Fredericksburg Fire Station. In the same year, Fredericksburg acquired the Union House (formerly a residence), at the corner of Caroline and Lewis Streets to house six grades of white students.

The first public school building built in Fredericksburg for white students was constructed on the Union House site in 1908. Designed to hold seven grade levels, it has served as the regional public library since the school vacated the building in 1969. From 1883 to 1920, when Maury High School opened, Fredericksburg had only the two public school buildings. When Maury opened its doors to white high school students there was no black public high school. The first public high school for black students, Walker-Grant School, was built in 1935 to replace Mayfield High School, whose 1905 construction had been privately funded by black parents.

Fredericksburg public schools were segregated in 1968-69. Hugh Mercer Elementary School opened in September 1969 as a result of the court ordered integration of

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Fredericksburg's public schools. Many schools, but apparently not Maury, underwent a major change in student bodies and grades served. Eleven years later, in 1980, Maury Elementary School closed.¹⁷

Future

In 1998, recognizing the school's status as a local landmark, the City of Fredericksburg sponsored a planning report titled "Charting Downtown's Future" which identified the renovation of Maury School as an essential step for revitalizing the surrounding neighborhood of Liberty Town. The city has made considerable efforts to improve the streetscape corridor and infrastructure in Liberty Town to further link this area with downtown's historic and commercial district. The renovation of the Maury School will significantly enhance the area and bring additional life to the entire downtown.

Physical Integrity

The Maury School retains excellent exterior physical integrity with no loss of significant fabric. Original exterior materials include Flemish-bond and diapered brickwork, cast stone trim, and a parged concrete foundation. The original football stadium with its balustrade and concrete bleachers are still in use for local games and public outdoor events. Original porches, windows, and exterior doors also remain intact.

On the interior, virtually all original volumes and spaces are unaltered and intact. The City conducted lead and asbestos abatement that resulted in the removal of all interior plaster, because it was contaminated with asbestos. The abatement also included removal of asbestos floor tile; fortunately this removal revealed original maple floors. Interior walls remain in place except in the 1938 wing where several frame partitions were removed. The building's interior walls are masonry, the corridors have glazed brick wainscoting, and the gymnasium walls are glazed brick from floor to ceiling. In addition to the glazed brick, other significant interior finishes and trim remaining include terrazzo, maple, and oak floors; windows and window casings, exterior doors and door casings; and nine original multi-story stairways with intact balustrades. Significant interior features such as masonry arches also remain. All the primary occupation spaces and circulation spaces remain, including gymnasium, auditorium, principal's office, library, corridors, and stairs. The plaster removal was an unfortunate necessity, but the building still clearly reads as a school.

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The overall physical integrity of the resource, coupled with the excellent integrity of design, setting, and workmanship, reinforces the individual eligibility of this school.

Evaluation of Physical Integrity by National Register Standards

Location: The Maury School remains on its original site. All events associated with the history of the school, the school yard, and the stadium occurred on the present site of the school.

Design: Maury School retains excellent integrity of design. It was designed by accomplished and locally renowned architect Phillip Stern. The design is architecturally advanced and ranks with other individually listed public schools in terms of the sophistication of its design. The major elements contributing to the design of the school (site, plan, elevation, details, and materials) remain in place. All interior spaces, rooms, corridors, stairs, and major assembly areas, such as the gymnasium and auditorium, remain intact. There are no non-contributing additions to the building, and all volumes and spaces are historic. The design of the school is well documented in original drawings and photographs.

Setting: The setting of the Maury School retains excellent integrity. No substantial alterations have been made to the setting of the school, and the stadium, football field, and track retain excellent integrity and remain in use.

Materials: The majority of Maury School's original material remains in place and has not been substantially altered. The brick structure has not been altered; cast concrete details, exterior doors, and exterior windows remain in place. On the interior, the original wood and terrazzo floors, glazed brick wainscoting, and windows remain. All entries, paired wood panel and glass doors, remain. The only material removed from the building was the interior plaster, and painted interior doors and trim, removed by the City of Fredericksburg as part of a lead and asbestos abatement effort.

Workmanship: The Maury School was built to the highest standards of craftsmanship and retains excellent integrity of workmanship. The form and details of the school were built of permanent materials to high standards of craftsmanship.

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Feeling: The Maury School retains excellent integrity of feeling. The building looks and feels unmistakably like a public school.

Association: The Maury School retains excellent integrity of association. It clearly represents the history of public education in Fredericksburg in the first three quarters of the twentieth century. It continues to be a local landmark, and the stadium is still a center of community life. The building continues to evoke strong associations and memories from the Fredericksburg community.

Rehabilitation Plans

Current plans are to use state and federal historic tax credits to renovate the Maury School and adapt it to use as apartments. The project has the full support of the City of Fredericksburg, which has been seeking a new use for the school for the past twenty-five years. The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* will be followed during the course of the rehabilitation.

The City of Fredericksburg, a Certified Local Government, initiated this project through a public Request for Proposals, and a series of public meetings. After vetting the submitted projects, the City of Fredericksburg selected this proposal, and City Council has endorsed it; the rehabilitation plans for the building are excellent, and will return life to a building that has sat vacant for 25 years.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The Maury School tract is a 7.38-acre property that takes the approximate shape of a non-bilaterally symmetrical hexagon and is known as Fredericksburg City Tax Parcel #136-900, the records of which can be found at Assessor's Office, City of Fredericksburg.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Maury School are those historically associated with the building and the stadium. The property is defined by the City of Fredericksburg as Tax Parcel #136-900.

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Section PHOTOGRAPHS Page 15

All photographs are common to:

PROPERTY: Maury School

LOCATION: City of Fredericksburg, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHER: Bryan Clark Green and Llewellyn Hensley

DATE: May 2006

**ELECTRONIC IMAGES STORED: Virginia Department of Historic Resources,
Richmond, Virginia.**

Photo 1 of 12: Stadium and South Elevation of Maury School (view to North)

Photo 2 of 12: South Elevation Maury School (view to East)

Photo 3 of 12: Arcaded hyphen between original building (to left) and addition (to right) of
Maury School (view to south)

Photo 4 of 12: Rear (west) elevation of addition to Maury School (view to east)

Photo 5 of 12: Detail of door, Rear (west) elevation of addition to Maury School (view to east)

Photo 6 of 12: Concrete bench, Maury School

Photo 7 of 12: Interior, hyphen, second floor, Maury School

Photo 8 of 12: Interior, stair, Maury School

Photo 9 of 12: Interior, Auditorium, Maury School

Photo 10 of 12: Detail of Auditorium seat, Interior, Auditorium, Maury School

Photo 11 of 12: Interior, Gymnasium, Maury School

Photo 12 of 12: Maury School in neighborhood context (view to southwest)

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¹ Jack D. Warren, Jr., "Old school politics," *Town & Country – The Free Lance-Star* (28 July 2001), p 3.

² "To Erect Sch. Build., City Council Awards Contract to Mr. Heflin-Vote Was 6 to 5," *The Daily Star* (18 July 1919), p.1.

³ "Preservation Leadership Training Institute: Maury School Building Adaptive Reuse Proposal," unpublished report from session sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (September 21, 1996).

⁴ Public schools were first established in Fredericksburg in 1870; the city's first public school building was constructed in 1908. It is now the city's library (from unpublished, undated report in the archives of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library).

⁵ During this period, before desegregation of Fredericksburg's schools, the Fredericksburg High School / James Monroe High School served children of the white community, as did the adjacent elementary school, called the Lafayette Elementary School. During this period, the Walker-Grant Elementary and High School served the African American Community. See John C. Goolrick, *A Life in the 'Burg: Things That Happened After George Washington Left Town*. (Victoria, B.C.: Trafford Publishing, 2003): 23.

⁶ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1997): s.v. "Stern, Philip Nathaniel."

⁷ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1997): s.v. "Stern, Philip Nathaniel."

⁸ M.B. Gatza, "Liberty Town: The Past and Present of a Fredericksburg Suburb," (Fredericksburg: Center for Historic Preservation, 1994), 5-6.

⁹ M.B. Gatza, "Liberty Town: The Past and Present of a Fredericksburg Suburb," (Fredericksburg: Center for Historic Preservation, 1994), 5-6, 30.

¹⁰ Fredericksburg City Council Minutes, 18 November 1815, p. 235, quoted in M.B. Gatza, "Liberty Town: The Past and Present of a Fredericksburg Suburb," (Fredericksburg: Center for Historic Preservation, 1994), 24.

¹¹ M.B. Gatza, "Liberty Town: The Past and Present of a Fredericksburg Suburb," (Fredericksburg: Center for Historic Preservation, 1994), 26.

¹² M.B. Gatza, "Liberty Town: The Past and Present of a Fredericksburg Suburb," (Fredericksburg: Center for Historic Preservation, 1994), 26.

¹³ M.B. Gatza, "Liberty Town: The Past and Present of a Fredericksburg Suburb," (Fredericksburg: Center for Historic Preservation, 1994), 26.

¹⁴ "It's Dog Mart Day in Fredericksburg," *The Orange Disc* (July-August 1950): 20.

¹⁵ "It's Dog Mart Day in Fredericksburg," *The Orange Disc* (July-August 1950): 20.

¹⁶ "It's Dog Mart Day in Fredericksburg," *The Orange Disc* (July-August 1950): 21.

¹⁷ "History of Public School Buildings in Fredericksburg, Virginia," unpublished, undated manuscript in the files of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library in Fredericksburg.